



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL • MEMBERSHIP 30,000 • HOME OFFICE: 205 MADISON ST., PASSAIC, NJ 07055

Periodical Postage Paid at original entry of Passaic, NJ 07055 and additional mailing offices

VOLUME CX

PASSAIC, NJ, MAY 1, 2021

NUMBER 5151

*A mother gives her children
Stepping stones to the stars.
Her love is unconditional;
Her heart has no bars.
A mother teaches her children
To be confident and bold.
Her special love for her children,
More valuable than silver or gold.
A mother picks up her children
And wipes away life's tears.
She scares away monsters in the night
And silences life's fears.
A mother celebrates
Her children's accomplishments in life.
She hurts and cries with them
When life brings times of strife.
A mother shares her love freely
With her tender loving way.
She grows more beautiful
To her children with each passing day.*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

Nearly every day I open the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook page to see what is happening and today there were two posts by two of our Supreme Officers. The first was from our Supreme Physical



Fitness Director, Katie Swift, doing a Facebook live update on the Sokol Family Fest that the Supreme Physical Fitness Board is organizing for the Sokol membership July 15-18, 2021 at SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, PA.

The second was from our Supreme Physical Fitness Board member, Dusan Dorich, showing photos of the April snow fall that covered his back yard.

This is the modern way of communicating so we have to embrace it no matter how overwhelming it becomes sometimes. Katie's post is showing what the Physical Fitness Board is doing to create an activity for any member to attend and enjoy a fraternal weekend together. Dusan's post is to stay connected with the Sokol members and show the unusual changes that happen in nature. The Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook page is the communication outlet we should use to connect with the Sokol membership. If you are not signed up to receive Sokol posts take a moment to sign up and become connected and informed.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board held a meeting via Zoom on Saturday, April 17, 2021 to continue the organizing of the Sokol Family Fest in July. The Board is working out the details to ensure all who attend have a wonderful time and enjoy a great fraternal weekend.

I am reminded the day to celebrate our Big Blue Marble, Earth Day, was on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Earth Day is the day to understand the importance of doing our part to help preserve and keep our planet in good health. Doing all we can to keep it in good shape by keeping its air clean, water pure, vegetation green, wildlife healthy, waste reduced and many other issues under control so our planet will continue to be a safe home for us and future generations.

I participated in the Slovak Catholic Federation's 2021 Spring meeting held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 via Zoom. The Slovak Catholic Federation conducts their

Annual Appeal to raise funds to support the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome. I encourage our Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths and members to give a yearly donation to the SCF so they can continue to help support the Slovak College in Rome. Also, take time to look at the Federation's Facebook page, which is maintained and updated by Sister Barbra Sable, SSCM. There is a lot of Slovak related information on the Facebook page and web site to help anyone with their research.

This year Join Hands Day is celebrated on Saturday, May 3, 2021. This is a day of volunteering and is intended to bring to everyone's awareness to the benefits of aiding each other. It is a day fraternalists can show what fraternalism is by taking up a project that can help others in need. If any Group, Assembly, or Wreath does a Join Hands Day project send in pictures and a little article so we can publish the good work you did for your community.

Happy Mother's Day to every member who is blessed to be called Mother; from Great Grand Mothers (Skvelá baba), Grand Mother (Babo), Mother (Matka), God Mother (Bože Matka) or any other title given to a special woman. May your Mother's Day be filled with happiness and love and you enjoy your day, since your endless love and caring cannot be truly measured but know it is appreciated by all who benefit from it. On this Mother's Day we also remember all of our Mothers who are with our Lord in Heaven, we thank you and ask that you will always be at our side to give us the strength and help to live our Christian lives. May God continue to bless all of you and keep you close to the Blessed Mother for support and guidance.

Let us not forget the national holiday, Memorial Day, created to honor and remember those who have died performing their duties while serving in the United States Armed Services. They served and died so we can live in the United States and their sacrifice helped other countries shed the chains of their oppressors. May we never forget what they did for many and the loss felt by their families. May all their souls Rest In Peace.

Memorial Day is also the day we remember our beloved family and friends who have died, especially those this past year who succumbed to the Covid-19 vi-

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Slovak Catholic Falcon Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

ISSN:0897-8107
Established April 15, 1911

Official Publication
of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

Issued Monthly

Editorial Office: 973-777-4010

Annual Subscription Rates:
United States \$40.00
All others countries \$45.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Slovak Catholic Falcon
P.O.Box 899, 205 Madison Street
Passaic, NJ 07055

Member of the Catholic Press Association
and the
Slovak Newspapermen's
Association of America

Proprietor and Publisher
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
P.O.Box 899
205 Madison Street
Passaic, NJ 07055

HOME OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PHONE NUMBERS:
TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-886-7656
HOME OFFICE: (973) 777-2605 or 777-2606

DIRECTOR OF SALES: 1-855-874-9179
or (412) 381-5431

UNDERWRITING: (973) 777-4704

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*From the desk of the Supreme Secretary***MAY FLOWERS**

by Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.



*As one whom his mother comforts,
so I will comfort you. – Isaiah 66:13*

Greetings from the Home Office! I am sure that most of us would agree that May is one of the most beautiful months of the year. The weather is finally turning the corner and the beautiful colors are finally sprouting up. I know that it is sometimes hard given the current times we are living in, but I urge all our members to get outside and enjoy the spring and all that it has to offer.

Here at the Home Office, we are still in the middle of our Business Continuity Plan as it pertains to the pandemic. We have seen an uptick of cases in Northern New Jersey, even though the vaccination numbers are going up. The good news is our staff has done a tremendous job during these unorthodox times. They have dealt with closures, testing, and many more challenges along the way. As I have said before, I am so proud of our Home Office Staff and our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, for their hard work and determination throughout this difficult time. We are all hoping that at some point this year, we will be able to get back to “normal”.

The month of May not only has the start of beautiful weather, but it is also a wonderful month because we get to celebrate some wonderful individuals. I am, of course, talking about all our Sokol Mothers! On Sunday, May 9th, we get an opportunity to make these heroes feel special. Anna Jarvis is recognized as the Founder of Mother's Day in the United States. She developed the inspiration of celebrating Mother's Day from her own mother, Mrs. Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis, in her childhood. As an activist and social worker, the elder Mrs. Jarvis used to express her desire that we should honor all mothers and pay tribute to the contributions made by them. Following her mother's death, Anna wrote letters

to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mother's Day. The hard work paid off and on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. I would like to wish all our Sokol Mothers out there a Happy Mother's Day! And I would especially like to wish my Mother, Annie, and my wife, Maggie, a Happy Mother's Day! Thank you for all you do! I remind everyone, once again, that celebrating our beautiful Mothers should not only be a one-day event, but an everyday occurrence.

This month also brings about various celebrations such as First Holy Communion, Confirmations, and Graduations. I know that these celebrations may be a little different this year as we are navigating through this pandemic, but what better gift to give to your child or grandchild than a Slovak Catholic Sokol Life Insurance Policy. And with our DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN currently going on, there is no better time than now. You can not only offer this amazing benefit to your loved ones, but also help your Group offset various costs that directly help your child or grandchild. If you have any questions regarding the DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN or our array of life and annuity products, please contact our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. at (412) 381-5431 or give me a call at the Home Office at (800) 886-7656, and we would be glad to assist you.

Until next time, have a wonderful month and once again, Happy Mother's Day to all our Sokol Moms!

Stay Safe, Stay Strong, and STAY POSITIVE!

Zdar Boh!

**GROUP 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Group 7 held an Easter flower fundraiser. Members gathered at the North End Slovak Citizens Club to sort and distribute a variety of spring flowers including lilies, hyacinths, chrysanthemums, and tulips.

*“Where flowers bloom so does hope” -
Lady Bird Johnson.*

GROUP 7 ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 9 a.m. at the North End Slovak Citizens Club in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Mass will be live streamed for St. Robert Bellarmine Parish. Fr. Richard Cirba, Group 7 Chaplain, will celebrate the Mass for living and deceased members of Group 7. All COVID 19 protocols will be followed for the safety of all members attending the meeting. All Group 7 Officers, Assembly/Wreath Officers and members are encouraged to attend. Zdar Boh!

– Pamela Lipski, Group 7 Reporter

**CANCELLATION
OF THE 2021 S.C.S.
BOWLING TOURNAMENT**

The 2021 Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament scheduled for the weekend of May 14th and 15th in Cleveland, Ohio has been cancelled for the health and safety of our members due to the recent resurgence of Covid-19 Pandemic, continued social restrictions at the hotels, bowling lanes and limited availability of vaccines. Please stay safe. – James Matlon, Director of Sports and Athletics

**JOIN THE
WALKING PROGRAM
TODAY!**

For more information contact
Martin Degnan at
mcoach1986@aol.com

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON
PUBLICATION DATE**

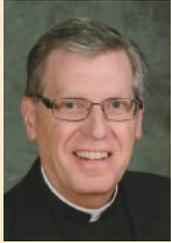
The next issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be that of JUNE 1, 2021. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **MAY 22, 2021.**

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic

WHY IS MAY THE MONTH OF MARY?

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics and making vacation plans.



It's also the Month of Mary.

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of Mary to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day in May, mind you, but the entire month.

The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity.

In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated ludi florals, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth.

During this period, the tradition of Tricesimum, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary.

It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

It's common for parishes to have a daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. Additionally, it's a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

But May altars and crowning's aren't just "church" things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it's a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need

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2021 LAW DAY MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL COUNSEL

On May 1, 2021, America celebrates Law Day. It is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. In 1958, President Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day a "day of national dedication to the principle of government under law." Throughout the years, Law Day has engaged the public in discussion on relevant issues that focus on enhancing knowledge of our governmental structure and legal process. The rule of law is the bedrock of American rights and liberties – in times of calm and unrest alike. The 2021 Law Day theme, "Advancing the Rule of Law Now," reminds us all that we the people share the responsibility to promote the rule of law, defend liberty, and pursue justice. The rule of law is not just a matter of concern to lawyers and judges. It affects people from all walks of life, including, but not limited to, clergy, teachers, workers, physicians, journalists, engineers, architects, public safety officials, military leaders, human rights advocates, environmentalists, and others. It is important that all of us care about the rule of law and do our utmost to be active participants in the civic life of our communities. By analyzing the rule of law on this Law Day, all of us will learn about the principles and values that characterize the rule of law and how it matters in the everyday lives of Americans and others throughout the world.



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

History provides us with numerous perspectives on the rule of law, including not only its importance, but also its values and principles. There are many historical quotes about law and the rule of law throughout history which can teach us about the role the rule of law has played, both as an idea and in practice. President John F. Kennedy stated, "By strengthening the rule of law, we strengthen freedom and justice." President Johnson remarked, "Thus all who cherish freedom should also cherish law. Liberty and law abide together. In that bond is the foundation of our liberties." President Theodore Roosevelt stated, "Ours is a government of liberty by, through and under law. No man is above it, and no man is below it." President Ronald Reagan in 1984 when he made his Law Day Proclamation stated, "Our unique experience demonstrates that law and freedom must be indivisible partners. For without law, there can be no freedom, only chaos and disorder; and without freedom, law is but a cynical veneer for injustice and oppression."

RULE OF LAW: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The rule of law refers to a system of self-government with a strong and accessible legal process. It features a system based on fair, publicized, broadly understood, and stable laws; and diverse, competent and independent lawyers and judges. The rule of law touches everyone, every day. It affects our safety through workplace and building safety regulations; jobs through fair employment laws; health through health regulations on pollutants and medications; education through legally mandated access to public education; and infrastructure through regulation of roadways and utilities. The rule of law is needed for the military, police, and firefighters to make communities safe; labor organizations to assert workers rights; businesses to sell goods and services which creates jobs and other opportunities to communities; educators to enhance and make available quality education for all children; and public health organizations to protect communities, especially the poor, from sickness.

PROTECTIONS GUARANTEED BY THE RULE OF LAW

The term rule of law is an expansive concept, and there are many working definitions. What it really means is that the law is the

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REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2020 PRESENTED AT THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD MARCH 18-10, 2021 – ZOOM CALL

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

This report is submitted for the purpose of advising of the activities of the Office of the General Counsel during the year 2020. I have endeavored to fulfill all the duties and obligations of my office to the best of my ability for the good and welfare of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

This past year was exceedingly trying in so many ways. Everyone focused on the COVID curve, vaccine approval and government assistance for direction.

While 2020 has challenged us in ways we never expected, we have been fortunate during this tumultuous time to have a talented group of Supreme Officers who have guided our organization. Our fraternal continues' to survive and endure because our officers have administered the affairs of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in the highest standards of excellence. As we enter 2021, let us hope that the deadly and crippling virus, through medical advances, becomes a non-issue and we can get back to normalcy.

The by-laws of our organization required that I obtain and study new state and federal legislation pertaining to fraternal organizations. My office continues to monitor all local and federal legislation which may affect the operation of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, directly or indirectly. Particular emphasis is placed upon the review of tax legislation which may attempt to eliminate the tax-exempt status of our organization. To my knowledge, there is no adverse legislation pending which will negatively impact our organization.

In matters concerning contract negotiations, our organization is in the process of collaborating with one of its tenants to sell a piece of real estate on the home office site which formerly served as our print shop decades ago.

Contractual documents have been exchanged between the parties and the buyer has retained the services of an architect and engineer to formalize the site plan and subdivision plot. The City of Passaic Zoning Board of Adjustment would have to render approval of the transaction since garden variety use variance relief is required as a condition of the sale. As a consequence of the delays caused by the global pandemic, further negotiations are pending.

In connection with our lending portfolio, no new mortgage loans were issued in 2020. Over the past decade, the Board of Directors had granted three mortgage loans to qualified members. During this past year, one borrower elected to pay off the mortgage in full ahead of schedule. Consequently, I drafted the requisite discharge of mortgage for filing and recording with the Passaic County Clerk's Office. In addition, at the Supreme President's direction, I prepared a detailed memorandum concerning the policies and procedures governing the Sokol mortgage program to eligible candidates. Further, I continue to verify that property taxes and insurance are being paid by each borrower. Our mortgage portfolio now consists of two (2) loans.

In matters concerning litigation there is one lawsuit pending in the State of Ohio. By way of background, a generous benefactor passed away leaving a Last Will and Testament with specific bequests to various fraternal benefit societies, including the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The will was admitted to probate and later challenged by another heir in Loraine County Probate Court. The case was forwarded to mediation in an attempt to settle all claims. It is anticipated that the matter will be concluded in the near future.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I have attended all virtual meetings and teleconference calls initiated by our Supreme President in order to carry out and administer the business of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The minutes of each of our Board of Directors' meetings are published in our Sokol Catholic Falcon and my participation is well documented.

During this past year, I have also attended the virtual sessions of the annual meetings of the American Fraternal Alliance and the Association of Fraternal Benefit Counsel.

I continue to serve as President of Group 1 as well as Assembly 162 in Clifton, New Jersey. I have submitted articles and reports to the Slovak Catholic Falcon for publication to keep our membership advised of ongoing activities within the Fraternal Benefit System.

Although 2020 was a complex year filled with unexpected turns, our organization continues to prosper and grow, thanks to the cooperation received from all Supreme Officers. My special thanks to all of you for the pleasure of having the opportunity to work with you for the good of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

In closing, I urge all of you as concerned leaders to make important contributions to the spirit of progress and good will that are the hallmarks of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. With God's blessing, I am encouraged and confident that our organization will continue to accomplish its goals and objectives.

ZDAR BOH!

Respectfully submitted,
John D. Pogorelec, Jr.
General Counsel

REPORT OF THE SUPREME DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

As the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, and in compliance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2020 Annual Activity Report.

The first event of the year was the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the weekend of January 17th through the 19th. Before the annual meeting I met with Basil Wahal from the GCU to discuss the 2020 International Bowling Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio and International Golf Tournament at Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf Course in August.

I participated in March 20th and 21st Zoom calls for the Board of Directors 1st Quarter Meeting. During the meeting all of the Physical Fitness Board recommendations were approved for the 2020 fraternal activities and sporting events. The Board of Directors voted to cancel the 74th International Bowling Tournament scheduled for May 15th and 16th at Brookgate Lanes in Cleveland, Ohio due to the growing COVID-19 Pandemic.

During the month of March, I was able to finalize the golfing, lodging and banquet facilities for the 2021 Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake, in DuBois, Pennsylvania. On March 31st, Kutztown University cancelled all events for the summer of 2020, including our Clinic that was scheduled in July.

On April 19th, I participated in the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Zoom call as we initialized plans for our first virtual Clinic.

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REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS

(Continued from page 5)

We had an additional Zoom call on May 9th to finalize the all of the details and schedule for the virtual Clinic.

I participated in the Board of Directors 2nd Quarter 2020 meeting via conference call on Wednesday, June 24th. During the meeting, the Board of Directors made the decision to cancel the 2020 International Golf Tournament due to the increase in the number of people contracting COVID-19 and for the health and safety of our members.

The first virtual Clinic Zoom call for all of the Group Leaders was held on Saturday June 13th, to discuss the rules and regulations and the addition of the over 30 age group for the 50th International Slet. The second Clinic Zoom call was held on Saturday July 18th with a separate breakout session to go over the new drills for the 50th International Slet.

Since the International Golf Tournament was cancelled, the Fitness Board decided that we would have an International Golf Week, August 10th-16th, 2020. Our members would continue to practice social distancing at local golf courses, miniature golf, driving ranges or just pose with a club in hand and post pictures on Face Book. We had over 100 members send in pictures from different venues all over the USA and Canada, and 22 pictures were posted in the September issue of our Falcon.

The Board of Directors held their 3th Quarter 2020 Meeting via Zoom conference call on Thursday, September 17th. The Board of Directors held their 4th Quarter Meeting via Zoom conference call on Friday, December 11th. At the December meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to postpone the 50th International Slet until July 2022 at Kutztown University due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Physical Fitness Board would look into promoting a Family Camp in July 2021. I participated in both meetings and we must continue to explore unique ways to communicate with our members at a local level during the Pandemic. The increased participation at the local level will help to increase the number of participants at our International Sporting events, including the 50th International Slet in 2022.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for their help and participation in the multiple Zoom calls in 2020. I am looking forward to the Sokol Family Fest at the SNPJ Recreation Center in July 2021 and the 66th International Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake in August 2021. I am optimistic that over 75% of our members will get vaccinated in the coming months and we can again have in person fraternal and social activities. Please keep in your prayers all of our members, families and friends that have had life changing events in their lives due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Zdar Boh!

James C. Matlon

Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

The Following activity report for 2020 is submitted to the Board of Directors.

The following is a list of activities and events I have attended and worked during 2020.

In January, I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

Meeting held January 17-18 at the Homewood Suites in Pittsburgh PA. At the meeting the board discussed the upcoming sporting events, including ideas for more social events like, camps and golf outings in Myrtle Beach. We also discussed the success of the previous Slet. We talked about things we could improve on and things that worked really well, like the accutrac timing and automatic and immediate posting of results to a designated website.

In March Jim Matlon and I discussed the Bowling tournament, which eventually we cancelled for safety of the members.

In July I attended the virtual Clinic. It had a good turnout and the directors and directresses had good ideas moving forward. During July, Jim and I thought it was also in the best interest of the golf participants to cancel the International Golf Outing due to the outbreak of Covid. We did push heavy to promote the golf weekend which included taking and posting pictures of the foursome your Fraternal Life Insurance and Benefit Society were golfing with. Personally we had a great turnout at Springhills golf course in Clinton, Ohio.

In August I posted to facebook a pump up Video I made to keep the excitement for future golf outings.

In November, Julie, Nancy and myself went to the Slovenska Narodna Podporna Jednota (translates to Slovene National Benefit Society) or now more commonly known as the SNPJ Recreation Center located in Kirkland Ohio, on November 13th where we met their directors to discuss a summer camp in the event the Slet would be cancelled. The camp will be replacing the Slet this year.

It has so much to do there and would be a great outing. They have a large outdoor swimming pool, fishing lake, horseshoes, baseball fields, soccer fields, camp sites, pavilions, close by golf and a lot of other fun things to do.

In concluding, this was a very trying year for most everyone, but I am sure we will pull through stronger and more appreciative of what we had and will have many better days ahead!

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Frank P. Laury III

Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual activity report for 2020.

2020 Yearly Activity Report

January - March

I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Final preparations for the 2020 calendar year events were discussed in length, with special attention to the International Clinic to be held at Kutztown University in July. The male board stayed an extra few days to review music and to start the choreography for the new drills to be presented at the Clinic. Prior to the annual Physical Fitness Board Meeting, I had coordinated with Katie Swift, James Matlon and Honey Svoboda from Kutztown University the business items that would be covered through the course of our SPFB meetings.

I attended the Board of Directors quarterly meeting via conference call, which was scheduled to be an in-person meeting. The onset of the COVID 19 pandemic started to affect every facet of our lives, which led the Board of Directors to hold preliminary discussions on how to handle our upcoming sporting and business meetings.

I submitted my article for submission to the Falcon publication.

April – June

I maintained contact with my assigned Group, Reading, PA to inform them of the sporting activities, Clinic, and any updates due to the pandemic. As well, I continued to stay in touch with Kutztown University to obtain updates on their COVID policies, and was informed that there would be no summer conferences held on campus.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board decided to hold a conference call, with the ultimate decision that we will hold a “virtual” Clinic via Zoom, instead of the in-person event scheduled in Kutztown.

I attended the quarterly Board of Directors conference call.

July – September

The SPFB held 2 separate Zoom calls with all of the Directors/Directresses and Sports Directors from 10 different Groups. The Board reviewed material that was generally covered during a traditional Clinic, and took lots of great feedback from the leaders of the various Groups. There were breakout sessions during both Zoom calls to brainstorm fraternal ideas and to start reviewing the 50th Slet drills.

I traveled to Wilkes Barre, PA to meet with the male SPFB to finish the drills and to video tape each one. All of the drills were completed and edited for distribution to each of the directors via the Google Drive.

I attended the quarterly Board of Directors conference call.

October – December

I maintained contact with Kutztown University and the SPFB to assess the 2021 viability of holding events. Our boards Zoom conferenced called twice to continue the dialogue and to discuss alternative “COVID friendly” events to be implemented in 2021.

I attended the quarterly Board of Directors conference call.

Throughout the year, there have been countless text messages, face time calls, emails, phone calls, Facebook posts and Zoom conferences to keep in contact with the SPFB, BOD and individual members. These are the little things that keep our organization unique in comparison to all of the other fraternal, and which makes our Sokol bond strong. We will always continue to promote the Slovak Catholic Sokol in the most reverent way, because this organization has done so much for all of its members!

In Sincere Fraternalism,
John M. Underation
Supreme Physical Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In compliance with the bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my Activity report for 2020.

January - March 2020

I met with the Cultural committee of Vychodna Slovak Dancers to start planning their trip to Slovakia for the semifinals competition in ZemSpieva. Plans were finalized. I travelled to Pittsburgh PA to attend meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board. All the last year’s events were reviewed and suggestion to improve events were acted on. Plans for the upcoming International Clinic were finalized and we have planned an exciting schedule. All the sporting activities were finalized. This year assignments were given to the Physical Fitness Board. The whole board including

new members had a lot of input during the meeting. We all work as one and the meeting was productive. After the meeting we worked on the drills for the upcoming International Clinic.

I travelled to Slovakia ahead of the Vychodna Slovak Dancers to make sure all arrangement for their arrival were ready. While in Slovakia Covid 19 came into Slovakia, ZemSpieva was cancelled and I rushed back home before Slovakia closed the borders.

April - June 2020

Together with the male Physical Fitness Board held conference calls (re) men’s drills. I posted information on our Facebook page. With the Covid 19 Physical Fitness Board cancelled all our sporting events and the International Clinic for the safety of our Sokol members. We held conference calls as well as Zoom calls to plan new ways to communicate with our members. The board made a new schedule for the Zoom International Clinic. I kept in touch with my liaison groups about new plans for the year.

July - September 2020

I represented Physical Fitness Board at the annual meeting of Group 19 thru the conference call.

I updated Group 19 with all the changes and plans for the events. I took part in the virtual International Clinic by a Zoom. This was the first International Clinic since I have been involved that it was not an in-person event. This was the part I missed the most this year. Virtual Clinic went well, and overall a lot was accomplished. Thanks to all the Group’s leaders for taking part in it. Fraternal Life Insurance and Benefit Society

I represented Physical Fitness Board at Group 19 Annual Golf outing. Group 19 had a good turnout for the event. They helped at a fundraiser for the Breast Cancer. Thank you to the organizers of the event, well done. As a board we continued to hold Zoom meetings to keep up with all the new informations. I worked with the Male board members on the preparation of a drill to be reviewed at the next meeting with the group leaders for next year. I send updates to the board regarding Falcon articles.

October - December 2020

As a board we held a Zoom meeting to start planning next year’s International Slet. As well as plan the sporting events. I kept in touch with my liaison groups regarding all the updates.

I met by conference call with executives of the Vychodna Slovak Dancers regarding the travel to Slovakia to take part in semifinals of Zem Spieva which was reschedule to mid Dec 2020. After all the points were presented, we decided not to travel to Slovakia for the safety of the dancers and the executives.

This has been a vastly different year, but I think we have managed to deal with it well to protect safety of our members.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Slovak Catholic Sokol for allowing me to serve as the Supreme Assistant Physical Director. Many thanks to Scott, Mike, Jim, Katie, and John for their professional leadership.

Fraternally yours,
 Zdar Boh!

Dusan Dorich
Supreme Assistant Physical Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

My first year as the Supreme Physical Directress has had more challenges than a normal year. Being nominated is an honor and an excitement I was ready to take head on. I was not expecting a worldwide pandemic which would take all of our normal, traditional yearly events and toss them out. But I feel as though I smiled, made some changes, and with the help of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, we worked hard to still keep our organi-

(Continued on page 8)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS

(Continued from page 7)

zation heading into the future.

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2020.

January – May

I started the year by reaching out to all Group Presidents and Sports Directors for collection of Activity Reports and data. This information is valuable to see what can help the Groups in the future.

I was in contact with the newly elected Board Members: Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Kristen Popik and Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Janice Matlon. With great excitement, we made plans for our first Physical Fitness Board Meeting as well as Drill weekend to choreograph the new drills for the upcoming 50th International Slet.

The SPFB gathered in Pittsburgh, PA on the weekend of January 19-23 for the yearly meeting and drill weekend.

I worked on making sure all the members have updated information and paperwork to be successful.

February 11, 2020 I attended the virtual workshop hosted by PNC: Tackling 2020 Leadership challenges and Board Governance.

As the world-wide pandemic started, the SPFB stayed in contact.

In the beginning of March, I completed the SWOT challenge form to be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting.

On March 31, 2020 I attended my first Board of Directors phone teleconference with all members of the Board of Directors.

In April, I worked with Supreme President and Supreme Secretary to purchase a membership in ZOOM to be used for future meetings.

Due to the continuation of the worldwide pandemic, April 5, 2020 the SPFB had a virtual meeting to discuss our summer programs. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, the SPFB decided to postpone the International Bowling Tournament as well as the International Clinic. Plans were being made for other events.

On April 26, 2020, I hosted a virtual Book club Meeting.

On March 31, 2020, and May 9, 2020 the SPFB had virtual meetings to discuss future plans and different possibilities for our organization.

June-September

Due to safety measures, COVID protocol and the concern of our members, the SPFB has decided to not hold an 'in-person' clinic. The SPFB members were faced with a challenge like none other. After several virtual meetings and emails, the SPFB held the International Clinic on two different days, June 14 and July 18. Both sessions last between 2-4 hours and a lot was discussed. Although disappointed by not being able to spend time together fraternally, the Group Directress', Directors, and assistants were happy to connect.

On June, 23, 2020 the female members of the fitness board met to discuss changes to drills and a schedule.

On June 24, 2020, I attended the Board of Directors Board meeting. Because of COVID-19, the meeting was hosted via Zoom virtually.

On July 8, 2020, the female SPFB met with all the Directress and assistants to make clarifications and discuss the future of drills and the 50th Anniversary of the International Slet.

Due to COVID-19, the SPFB voted to reschedule the 'official' International Golf Tournament. The golf courses still honored the group rate price. Some of our members were still able to meet.

During that week, the SPFB hosted a virtual Golf Week and encouraged all members to post pictures on facebook.

During the month of August, the COVID-19 virus was not slowing down. Seeing this as a stressor and bringing people down, I worked together with the SPFB members to organize a number of events to be hosted via ZOOM. These events were in hopes to guide the organization and hold us together.

September-December

On September 18, 2020, I hosted the first virtual happy hour with Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky.

September 17, 2020, I attended the virtual Board of Director meeting.

On October 2, I hosted a First Friday Happy Hour with Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky.

On October 17, 2020 I met with Supreme Director John Underation, Assistant Director Marty Degnan, and Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky to help plan what future events our organization may be able to host.

On October 18- 24, 2020, the SFPB hosted a virtual International Bowling event where we encouraged people to post pictures, memories, and old pictures from Bowling Tournaments.

In October, I was a member of the scholarship committee and met with fellow members of the committee from the Board of Directors to review applicants.

November 6, 2020, Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky and I hosted the virtual Friday Happy Hour.

December 5, 2020, the SPFB had a meeting to discuss plans for the 50th International Slet. With a heavy heart, we all agreed the seriousness of COVID-19 continues to be the major concern, safety issues, regulation and the Canadian Border still not accessible for transit, we would need to postpone the 50th International Slet. Discussion of a retreat/ family weekend are in the plans. We feel as though the need for a fraternal event is wanted by all members.

December 11, 2020, I attended the Board of Director virtual meeting.

This year was exciting and had challenges to take on as the new Directress. The worldwide pandemic was a new challenge that no one has seen before. I took the challenge head on and hope I was able to provide a positive atmosphere with virtual events. I will continue to stress the importance of communication within our organization, planning fraternal events and hope to be able to see everyone in 2021.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.

Zdar Boh!

Katie Swift

Supreme Physical Directress

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

In accordance with the by-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2020. As the newly elected Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, the beginning of the year was filled with excitement and anticipation. The focus for the year was to prepare for the 2021 International Slet. March 2020 changed that focus and forced the Fitness Board to plan and think differently. A shift from organizing a large-scale event hoping to generate a wider age group of past, present, and future competitors, evolved into thinking of ways to remain connected through social media. Our motto "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body" has greater significance to me now more than ever.

In efforts to establish Supreme Physical Fitness Board support at local levels, efforts were made to contact officers of Group 9 and 17. In addition, all communiqués were relayed to Group 17 members to promote involvement. On an international level, I submitted comments and reminders of upcoming events to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook page.

January- March 2020 I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and served on the Sports Program Committee. I assisted the Supreme Physical Fitness Female Board with choreography of the junior girls' and senior women's drills for the 2021 International Slet. I reported on the status of the Sunshine Fund and transferred all records to Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Janice Matlon. I participated in the Physical Fitness Board Zoom Meeting in preparation for the 2020 Clinic.

April - June 2020 I submitted an article to The Falcon pertaining to understanding generational differences. I participated in monthly Physical Fitness Board Zoom Meetings as well as two Female Board Zoom Meetings in preparation for a Virtual Clinic. I assisted Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift in conducting Part I of the Virtual Clinic.

July - September 2020 I participated in a Female Board Zoom Meeting to reflect on ways to keep communication and connections with our members. I promoted Sokol International Golf Week on Facebook and attended a golf outing with members of Groups 5, 17 and 14 at Seven Oaks Country Club.

October - December 2020 I participated in monthly Physical Fitness Board Zoom Meetings to discuss concerns and restrictions regarding the 2021 International Slet. I assisted Katie Swift in hosting Happy Hour Zoom Meetings by issuing prizes to monthly theme winners. I contacted SNPJ to discuss a possibility of holding a family outing should the Slet be postponed in 2021. I toured SNPJ with Supreme Assistant Sports Director, Frank Laury and collaborated with SNPJ Recreation Director to develop a draft itinerary.

Looking back on the past year positively, 2020 reaffirmed the core values of the Slovak Catholic Sokol- faith, family, good health, and happiness. I am thankful for being able to serve the organization as the Supreme Assistant Physical Directress. It is truly an honor to be involved in this capacity and I look forward to the continued growth of the Physical Fitness Program.

Zdar Boh!

Nancy Kropolinsky

Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

S.K.S. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Following up on the success of the 2020 Committee that was assembled for the 33rd Quadrennial Convention held August 4, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio, I call on all Slovak Catholic Sokol members who would like to serve on the Governance Committee at the 34th Convention to be held in 2023 to send to me their Letter of Interest.

The Governance Committee responsibilities will be to analyze the Society, see how it compares to other fraternal in structure, and recommend any changes, if necessary, to the Delegates of the 34th Quadrennial Convention.

In your letter of interest, list your employment, Slovak Catholic Sokol biography and a statement on why you want to serve on the Governance Committee.

All Letters of Interest must be addressed to the President and received at the Home Office by July 31, 2021.

All questions regarding the Governance Committee should be sent to me at mhorvath@slovakcatholicsokol.org.

Zdar Boh! – **Michael J. Horvath**, *President*

DIFFERENT TASKS REQUIRE DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS

We've all done it at one time or another. On purpose or sub-consciously, its probably something that we do hundreds of times a day. If you're guessing at what I'm referring to it's the procrastination bug. I didn't realize it myself, but I just did it there. Got up and waled away from the computer screen to check on the mail, which was already delivered. I knew it but I did it anyway to get away from the fact that this article is due tomorrow, and I really haven't gotten anywhere close to starting, let alone finishing it.

I can't understand just how those bloggers, reporters and posters do it. Almost everyday its something new to get done. I have enough trouble doing my taxes even with the deadline extension we've gotten the past two years. And don't get me started on all those people that did so many home improvement projects during the pandemic. If I see one more closet cleaned out, rug ripped up or room repainted, I might pull out what's left of my hair.

Don't get me wrong. I really and truly admire these people. You know at least one of them. They always have something to do, something to post on their Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Meanwhile, plenty of us are struggling to find the motivation or self-discipline to just get moving on one thing a day.

To paraphrase Robert Burns, "the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray". The reason I use this quote is to put into context the reasons many of us DO procrastinate. Something always comes up. I'll get to it tomorrow. I've got plenty of time to get it done. Right now, I'm looking at a pile of laundry in my room that really needs to go in the wash so I have clean clothes for work tomorrow. I know it will get done but it may take a while to get around to them. And if you've been following along throughout this article, you know that I just walked away from the computer (again) to sort and start that first load. Procrastination solved or just another project delayed?

I'm not writing to poke fun at anyone, whether you're the 'go-getter' or the 'take it as it goes' type. I find that I often fall into the latter of the two. But I am trying to find a middle ground between both. Different tasks require different solutions. If you're anything like me, then you definitely understand and know what I mean. If it takes a visual reminder, then go ahead and tape that project above your desk so every time you log on to your computer you see it. Tie that string around your finger or wrist for a prompt. And everyone has some kind of reminder on their smart phone they can program.

I can probably go on and on about reasons, excuses and solutions for my bad habit, but right now I've got another load of laundry to do, clothes to put in the dryer and this article to finish.

Zdar Boh!

Marty Degnan

Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

PS I hope everyone had a little laugh while reading this. I had quite a few myself.

Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 2)

rus. Let us celebrate their lives and pray for them. May their souls Rest In Peace.

The Drive to 50 campaign has been extended to coincide with the 50th International Slet in July 2022. This will give everyone a chance to participate and help the Society increase its membership. If anyone has any questions regarding the Drive to 50 campaign contact our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. or Director of Sales Albert J. Suess, Jr. F.I.C.

While we start thinking of summer stay safe and healthy.

With God's Blessings to All!

Zdar Boh!

DRIVE TO 50 SALES CAMPAIGN

CELEBRATING THE 50TH INTERNATIONAL SLET

The Slovak Catholic Sokol will be reaching a significant milestone within the SOKOL World – We will be hosting and presenting our 50th International Slet (Gymnastic and Track and Field Meet).

To help celebrate this Golden Occasion we have created the DRIVE TO 50 Sales CAMPAIGN. This campaign is designed to benefit and reward our membership, our groups, and recommenders.

BENEFITING MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH

For more than 115 years our society has provided our members with sound financial protection and outstanding fraternal benefits. As proud members of the SOKOL it is quite easy to expound upon and share the qualities of membership. This is an excellent opportunity to share our excellent offerings with friends and family and get rewarded for it.

Not everyone is born a salesman or comfortable selling life insurance or annuities. Today, we have qualified life insurance and annuity representatives that can assist our existing and potential members in selecting the financial protection to help protect their future.

A supply of SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards will be available to all Group/Assembly/Wreath Officers for distribution. Officers are asked to distribute SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards to existing Members who want to recommend someone to become an insured Benefit Member. SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards are also available for completion and submitting on the SOKOL Web Site www.scslife.org. Mail all completed Referral Lead Cards to the Sales & Marketing Office:

Slovak Catholic SOKOL
Sales & Marketing
2403 Sidney Street, Suite 200,
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 412-381-5431
Fax: 412-742-4638
Toll-Free: 1-855-874-9179
www.scslife.org

DRIVE TO 50 DETAILS

RECOMMENDER REWARDS

- \$10 Referral Fee for each recommendation that results in a sale.
- Qualifies for a semi-annual drawing for an opportunity to win a \$50 gift card.
- Qualify for a \$250 grand prize drawing at the end of the campaign.

GROUP REWARDS

Awards to qualifying Groups based on the following levels resulting from sales of new life insurance and annuity certificates issued:

- 10 New Certificates (policies):
\$250 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 25 New Certificates (policies):
\$500 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 50 New Certificates (policies):
\$1,000 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses



DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN - Member Referral Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: ____ - ____ - ____ Email: _____

Gender: Male Female Age: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / _____

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION Assembly/Wreath: ____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: ____ - ____ - ____

Interest:
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Insurance
<input type="checkbox"/> Annuity



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

LEGACY LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

PERMANENT PLANS

WHOLE LIFE ● SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE ● 20 PAYMENT LIFE

TERM PLANS

TERM to AGE 30 ● 10 YEAR TERM ● 20 YEAR TERM

VANTAGE COLLECTION of ANNUITY PRODUCTS

1 YEAR ● 2 YEAR ● 3 YEAR ● 5 YEAR ● 7 YEAR

2.00% 2.25% 2.40% - 2.50% - 2.60% 3.00% 3.25%

● SPIA Single Premium Immediate Annuity

3.50% - 10 Years % Greater ● 2.75% Less than 10 Years

MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING VIA VIRTUAL MEETING – MARCH 19, 2021

MINUTES OF THE 2021 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On March 19, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., S.C.S. Museum President Edward D. Moeller called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to our virtual meeting.

Brother Moeller called upon Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, to open the meeting with a prayer. He then called upon Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, to lead the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brother Moeller proceeded to ask Museum Secretary/Treasurer, James Knis, to conduct the roll call of the Museum Board of Directors. The roll call was conducted, and all ten Directors were present.

The minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board held on September 17, 2020 were approved on a motion made by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. and seconded by the Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James Jerek. Motion was approved by a voice vote.

Brother Moeller stated that thanks to the generous donations from members and corporate donors, the Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship Fund continued to accumulate enough funds which has allowed us to offer three \$1,000 scholarships. He acknowledged a generous donation from the PNC Bank was received through the efforts of Mr. Thomas Calimano, Vice-President/Market Director and S.C.S. Portfolio Manager.

Brother Moeller asked Museum Treasurer, James F. Knis, for his report. Brother Knis reported the January 1, 2020 balance was \$16,726.05 and the December 31, 2020 balance was \$19,679.62, for a net increase of \$2,953.57. The museum funds are deposited into two accounts, \$8,274.94 with PNC Bank which earns a minimum amount of interest and \$11,404.68 which earned 2.5% interest with the Sokol Secure Fund. The 2020 total income was \$6,011.57, with \$5,725 coming from donations and the remainder from interest. The Treasurer reported total expenses for 2020 of \$3,058, which represents three \$1,000 scholarships and \$58 for other expenses. The Treasurer advised the Board the names of the donors were published quarterly in the Falcon.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., reported that due to the pandemic, there were no visitors to the Museum this past year.

Under new business, Brother Moeller recommended we award four \$1,000 scholarships this year. A motion was made by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James Matlon, seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift. Motion approved by a voice vote.

Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, reported we are closer to getting the video of the Museum done and she is working with one of our members to set up some dates now.

Chairman Moeller asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic and seconded by Supreme Physical Director, John Underation. Motion was approved by a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

James F. Knis
Museum Board Secretary/ Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING VIA VIRTUAL MEETING

Friday, March 19, 2021 – 1:30 P.M.

Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 19, 2021 and welcomed all the members of the Board on the call.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F. offered the **Opening Prayer** leading the Directors in the reading of the prayer to practice the Golden Rule.

President Horvath gave his **Opening Remarks**, welcoming the Board of Directors and thanking them for their hard work and dedication to the organization. Brother President and Brother Secretary thanked the Board for their flexibility during this difficult time for our nation.

President Horvath informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held on December 11, 2020 and published in the February 1, 2021 issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller.

Approved

President Horvath advised the Directors that they have all received copies of the **2020 Directors Activity Reports** and requested a motion for their acceptance. Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, will forward any typographical mistakes found to our Supreme Secretary for correction. General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by Supreme Physical Director, John M. Underation.

Approved

The Supreme President then announced the following **Committee Assignments**.

ASSIGNMENT OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES

BUDGET COMMITTEE

James F. Knis, Chairperson
Michael J. Horvath
Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
James G. Jerek

PHYSICAL FITNESS COMMITTEE

James C. Matlon, Chairperson
John M. Underation
Katie Swift
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY/SELECTION COMMITTEE

Edward D. Moeller, Chairperson
Michael J. Horvath
Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic*
James G. Jerek*

*(Two different B.O.D. Members will rotate each year)

Acknowledged

President Horvath asked the Supreme Secretary to present any **Communications** or greetings that were received at the Home Office.

Brother Pogorelec indicated thank well wishes for a successful meeting were received from Group 7 President, Amy Degnan Blasco, on behalf of all Group 7 members.

Brother Secretary also received a letter from our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr., asking to be excused from the 1st Quarter Meeting for personal reasons. Acknowledged

Brother President then called upon the Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., to present the **2020 Annual Financial Report of the Supreme Secretary**.

**FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY
AS OF 12/31/20**

ASSETS	2020	2019
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,489,185	\$ 1,738,696
Investments - Bonds & Bills	78,623,914	73,164,049
Investments - Stocks	12,409,697	10,955,559
First Mortgage Loans	593,670	606,410
Loans on Certificates	247,218	241,244
Accrued Interest Receivable	803,105	829,062
Sokol Building/Land	321,402	325,140
Accounts Receivable	35,835	25,100
Due From Groups	2,808	-
Prepaid Items	15,168	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 97,542,002	\$ 87,885,260
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	2020	2019
Life Reserves	\$ 78,226,584	\$ 68,441,082
Asset Valuation Reserve	1,977,033	1,660,232
Interest Maintenance Reserve	266,972	196,054
Reserve for Supplemental Contracts	2,849,615	2,643,815
Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan	4,821,045	4,828,267
Reserve for Convention	60,000	-
Claims Payable	490,290	534,949
Conversion - Canadian Currency	3,847	3,801
Accounts Payable	36,208	76,983
Sokol Secure Fund	1,093,375	1,096,024
Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund	85,000	85,000
Emil Slavik Scholarship Fund	100,000	100,000
Dr's Lesko Medical Scholarship Fund	20,000	20,000
Yencha Memorial Scholarship	20,700	18,500
Krista L Glugosh Memorial Scholarship Fund	24,000	24,000
Dividend Payable	50,000	50,000
Advance Premiums	45,656	89,530
PPP Loan	40,752	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 90,211,077	\$ 79,868,237
Undistributed Funds - Sokol	\$ 7,330,925	\$ 8,017,023
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS	\$ 97,542,002	\$ 87,885,260

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME	2020	2019
Investment Income	\$ 3,221,072	\$3,235,523
Amortization of IMR	39,428	52,547
Dividends on Stocks	323,344	304,618
Interest on Mortgages	7,710	38,530
Interest on Certificate Loans	17,635	19,616
Sale of Cookbooks	465	728
Rent Received - Sokol Building	75,025	106,075
Life Premium Income	2,314,886	2,591,571
Annuity Income	11,392,077	1,938,704
Scholarship Income	-	1,223
Miscellaneous Income	168,138	46,325
Sale of Securities/Amortization	148,758	982,519
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 17,708,538	\$ 9,317,979
EXPENSES	2020	2019
Death Benefit Claims Paid	1,661,785	1,358,544
Interest Expense	78,167	164,847
Fraternal Expenses	458,674	574,641
General Expenses	1,291,112	1,444,376
Employee Retirement Expenses	359,371	362,466
Commissions	475,974	398,702
Annuity Benefits	3,614,974	3,334,506
Taxes & Fees	53,125	61,096
Reserve Increase	9,778,280	1,217,351
Cash Surrenders	387,216	311,042
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,158,678	\$ 9,227,571
TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)	\$ -450,140	\$ 90,408

ZDAR BOH!
Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC
Supreme Secretary
Slovak Catholic Sokol

Several questions were presented and addressed in a general discussion. A motion to accept the report was made by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdocic and seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon. Approved

President Horvath thanked Brother Secretary and asked if he could present the **Director of Sales Report**.

Brother Secretary reported that as of December 31, 2020, a total of 472 new members have joined our organization through the purchase of life insurance and annuity certificates. The total face amount of insurance issued for 2020 was just under 9 million.

The total number of certificates in force is 30,604, consisting of 29,725 life certificates and 879 annuity certificates.

The total amount of life premium dollars remained strong in 2020. We have built a solid base of renewal premium the last five years primarily through the Legacy Life and Legacy 20.

This past year was a banner year for annuity premium income as we saw exponential growth in premium dollars. Annuity income exceeded 10 million for the first time in our Society's history.

Also discussed was the new 2017 CSO Tables, which have

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MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

(Continued from page 13)

been instituted on January 1, 2020. Rates will once again have to be adjusted as the maximum valuation rate goes down. Rates will have to be put in place by January 1, 2022.

Brother Secretary also updated the Board on the Agent Sales' Campaigns, as well as the Membership Campaign centered around our 50th International Slet in 2022.

A lively discussion ensued regarding future marketing efforts and several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board. President Horvath thanked Brother Secretary for presenting the report and entertained a motion for acceptance, so moved by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek.

Approved

President Horvath then welcomed Allan Ferrone, CPS Actuarial, to present the **Actuarial Report**.

Mr. Ferrone presented the yearly report on the results of the Slovak Catholic Sokol's Annual Statement.

The Sokol assets continue to grow and now stand at just under 98 million, which is an all-time high for the organization.

The Quality of the Sokol's bond portfolio remained at a very high level in 2020. The average NAIC bond quality designation, weighted by amortized value, is 1.65 (where "1.0" is "highest quality" and "2.0" is "high quality"). The Sokol has also lengthened the maturity dates of its bond portfolio. The average duration has increased to about 14.1 years.

Brother Ferrone reported on the operational results in 2020. The amount of money the Sokol collects from investment income and premiums is less than the money being paid out for benefits, insurance/fraternal expenses, dividends, and the amount needed to fund the required increases in reserves. The 2020 expenses were lower than the 2019 expenses, which can be attributed to the Covid-19 Pandemic, but the Home Office is still doing a good job of controlling what they can control. The Home Office will continue to find ways to lower expenses.

Annuity premium income increased dramatically in 2020. The Sokol will need to keep a keen eye on that type of income as the investment yields are being dragged down further.

A discussion ensued regarding the operational results and areas where the Sokol can improve their efforts. Mr. Ferrone answered all questions to the satisfaction of the Board.

President Horvath then called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano, Market Director/Senior Vice-President, and Ms. Cynthia Cole, Fixed Income Specialist, of PNC Institutional Asset Management to present the **PNC Advisor's Report**.

Mr. Calimano discussed PNC's outlook for the financial markets and the economy with the Board. Additionally, he reviewed the investment strategies recently implemented in both the equity and fixed income portfolios and future potential strategic changes in the portfolio. The individually invested bond portfolio for the twelve months ended December 31, 2020 continues to be of high quality with a solid investment grade rating average.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole also discussed future potential portfolio repositioning and PNC's outlook for the financial markets during these difficult times.

Brother Calimano and Sister Cole addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook. Both

indicated the Society is in a strong financial position, especially in this volatile fiscal environment.

A motion to accept the report was made by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon.

Approved

President Horvath then called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. to present the **Legal Department Report**.

General Counsel updated the Board on the mortgagees currently on file and the closures they have had to sustain due to Covid-19 restrictions. Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, made a motion that the General Counsel and Supreme Secretary work with the two existing mortgagees to restructure their current mortgages to resume payment by July 2021, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller.

Approved

Brother Counsel also shared with the Board one new mortgage application. The Board mutually decided to issue a moratorium on the granting of any mortgage applications until circumstances in the economy change.

Acknowledged

Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek.

Approved

Brother President thanked Brother Counsel and called upon Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, to present the **2021 Budget Report**.

The Supreme Treasurer indicated that the Budget Committee, consisting of himself, the Supreme President, the Supreme Secretary, and the Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors met virtually on Thursday, March 11th to go over the proposed budget.

Brother Knis addressed several questions to the satisfaction of the Board. A motion to accept the report was made by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek and seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon.

Approved

Brother President then called upon the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, for the **Physical Fitness Committee Report**.

Brother Matlon reported that the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Annual Meeting was held virtually on Saturday, January 16, 2021. The main topic discussed was the 50th International Slet that will now be held July 13th-17th, 2022 in Kutztown, PA.

Brother Underation and Sister Swift also updated the Board on the Sokol Family Fest to be held July 15th-18th, 2021 at SNPJ Recreational Center in Enon Valley, PA.

Looking ahead, the 2021 International Golf Tournament will be held at Treasure Lake in Dubois, PA on August 6th-8th. Brother Matlon will keep all members informed on any new developments.

Acknowledged

After a lively discussion regarding all items, Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, moved for the acceptance of the report, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis.

Approved

The Supreme President then opened the floor for discussion regarding the **Annuity Interest Rate** to be offered for the Second Quarter of 2021.

After a lengthy discussion considering the reports from our professionals and the current financial climate, Supreme Physical Director, John M. Underation, made a motion to adjust our credit-

ing rates on all annuities, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

The Supreme President then asked the Supreme Secretary for the **Donation Requests**.

1. **Slovak Catholic Federation**, Bridgeport, PA, request from Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Appeal Coordinator, request for the 43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

The Board recommends a donation of \$300 in support of 43rd Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, made a motion to accept the Donation Report, seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift. Approved

The Supreme Secretary then discussed the S.C.S. Policy Statement with respect to Conflicts of Interest, reminding the Directors, that the Slovak Catholic Sokol has the utmost confidence in the loyalty and integrity of its officers, directors, and employees. He reemphasized the traditional policy of the Slovak Catholic Sokol on this subject that each Supreme Officer has a signed completed statement on file. The State of New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance recommended that the approval of the Statement of **Conflict of Interest** be made part of the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting.

To comply with this request, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

President Horvath questioned if anyone has any **New Business** to be brought forward.

Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, updated the Board on the Annual Audit, which had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Brother Jerek informed that Board that he has been working with the Supreme Secretary and our Supreme Auditors in doing the bulk of the Audit virtually and will update the Board accordingly. Acknowledged

Supreme Vice-President and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Edward D. Moeller, informed the Board that the Scholarship Committee will meet virtually in the middle of May to decide on the scholarship recipients. Acknowledged

Also discussed by the Board was our Business Continuity Plan during this outbreak. Brother Secretary updated the Board on our plan and how we have handled disruptions. Acknowledged

Having completed all the business on the agenda, Brother President entertained a motion to adjourn, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, led the Board in a closing prayer for all deceased members, especially for those effected by the Covid-19 virus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

HOLE SPONSORSHIP AT OUR 2021 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Hole Sponsorship Opportunity

Sign Dimensions 24" X 18"

Cost \$50.00

It is a great fraternal way to promote your Group, Assembly/Wreath, business, or family to over 120 golfers the weekend of August 6th through the 8th, 2021.

The Golf Tournament will be held at Treasure Lake Resort, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

Send the information that you want printed on your sign via email or regular mail.

Please send a check for \$50.00 made payable to:
Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account

Deadline: July 9, 2021

Email: jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org

Mailing Address:
James Matlon, 6 Academy Drive East
Whippany, NJ 07981



Well-known Group 14 Sokolka, Jen Flynn Oldenburg is shown above as the Ohio State Women's Head volleyball coach. She is the daughter of Phyllis and Al Flynn and sister of Laurie Flynn Cortazzo, all our Sokols. She was hired in this position in January 2020 and has enjoyed great success. She has now been named Big Ten Coach of the Year heading to the 2021 NCAA Volleyball Tournament with a 15-3 winning record, ranked 8th in the country and seeded 9th in the NCAA Volleyball Tournament held in April in Omaha Neb. This has never been accomplished by either a man or woman as a first year head coach at Ohio State. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Jen at this time. Happy future and Zdar Boh!

66TH INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

TREASURE LAKE GOLF RESORT, DUBOIS, PENNSYLVANIA – AUGUST 6TH-8TH

The longer days and warmer weather brings us closer to the golf season and to our Slovak Catholic Sokol 66th International Golf Tournament which will be held August 6th-8th at Treasure Lake Golf Resort, DuBois, Pennsylvania.



We are looking forward to hosting a wonderful weekend of fraternalism and sportsmanship. The participants and guests for the 66th International Golf Tournament will stay at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Hampton Inn or at Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Over the years, this event has become much more than a golf outing, but has evolved into a true fraternal family event. Many of our

Sokol members now attend the tournament accompanied with their respective families, which has added to the richness of the event and true fraternal camaraderie.

We are hoping to have a large turnout of golfers and guests this year, especially after the cancellation of the 2020 Golf Tournament due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Please return your application and fee as soon as possible to my home address: 6 Academy Drive East, Whippany, NJ 07981. If you have any questions pertaining to the event, please call or text me at (973) 647-8551. Email jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org. **Application and fee deadline for the tournament is July 9th (postmarked).**

The full golf package is only \$295.00 double occupancy and \$415.00 single occupancy. The golf package includes the tournament entry fee and prize money, three full rounds of golf with cart, two nights lodging, including breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. The golf package also includes the Friday night hospitality and a Saturday dinner. (All taxes and gratuities are included).

For our members who may not require the lodging and meal package, there is a golf only package for \$160.00, which includes entry fee and tournament expense fees. The non-golf weekend package rate is \$140 which includes lodging and breakfast if you stay at the Fairfield Inn or Hampton Inn.

Each golfer must make his or her own hotel arrangements by contacting the Fairfield Inn and Suites at 814-371-2260 or Hampton Inn at 814-735-1000.

Golf reservations for the practice round on Friday should be made with the Gold Course, 814-913-1482 or the Silver Course, 814-913-1480.

The Friday Hospitality will be at the Lakeview Lodge at Treasure Lake and the golf dinner will be held on Saturday late afternoon/evening following the opening round of tournament play. The Mass times and addresses of the local churches will be available at the hotel and golf course when you check-in.

This will be a great fraternal event, and we hope to see all of you at Treasure Lake Resort this August. During the golf tournament all of the players and guests will follow the CDC guidelines in place at the time of the event for the state of Pennsylvania, Clearfield County and Treasure Lake Golf Resort.

Entry forms may also be found on the Slovak Catholic Sokol Website www.slovakcatholicsokol.org under Sports Programs. - Zdar Boh! **James C. Matlon**, *Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics*

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Every contestant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol/GCU in good standing for at least one (1) year or three (3) months with Single Premium Life Insurance prior to the event with

a minimum of \$3,000.00 coverage. All new members who are enrolled in the organization after January 1st 2008 will require a new minimum of \$5,000.00 worth of insurance coverage.

2. (A) The golf tournament will consist of six (6) flights as listed below before applying 75% to handicap:

"A" Flight	0 to 12 Handicap	"D" Flight	Callaway System
"B" Flight	13 to 20 Handicap	"S" Flight	Senior,
			62 years and over
"C" Flight	21 and over	"W" Flight	Women,
			Callaway System

(B) Maximum Handicap per round: Men – 40 Women - 50

(C) Only the Slovak Catholic Sokol Handicap or GCU Handicap will be accepted for all flights.

3. The tournament shall be held with prevailing U.S.G.A. rules.

4. Callaway Flights: Golfers who do not have a handicap (handicaps are determined after two years or four rounds) of Slovak Catholic Sokol/GCU Tournament play. The Callaway Modified System will be used with two blind holes each round to calculate the daily handicap.

5. (A) All handicaps are subject to review and possible re-rating by "Handicap Committee". In the case of ties, lowest handicap will be declared flight winner.

(B) Women golfers will compete in a separate flight with a Modified Callaway System.

6. All play will be 36 holes: 18 to be played on Saturday August 7th and 18 on Sunday, August 8th.

7. Entry Fee is \$15.00 and Tournament Expense is \$15.00. A golf dinner will be available on Saturday after completion of the first round of tournament play.

8. Prizes: There will be a Champion in each flight and the prize money will be awarded according to the number of entries received for each flight.

9. Foursomes will be paired at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Participants wishing for special twosomes & foursomes, please indicate your golf partners on the golf tournament application. (Continued on page 16)

10. Penalty for being tardy at the starting tee will be according to U.S.G.A. rules with loss of position.

11. **Entries will close with a Postmark Date of July 9th, 2021.** All tournament fees must accompany Golf Entry Form.

12. Make checks payable to: **Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account**

13. Mailing address: **James Matlon
6 Academy Drive East
Whippany, NJ 07981-1801**

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

66TH INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM

AUGUST 6TH - 8TH 2021 – TREASURE LAKE GOLF RESORT – DUBOIS, PA

GOLF PRACTICE RESERVATIONS: GOLD COURSE - (814) 913-1482 & SILVER COURSE (814) 913-1480

U.S.G.A. 36 Holes Men-5 Flights - Women-1 Flight

ENTRY DEADLINE: JULY 9TH 2021

Every golfer must fill out a form and all fees must accompany this entry form.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Certificate#: _____ Assembly / Wreath _____ Golfer Signature _____

I hereby certify that the name on this application is a bona-fide member of this Assembly/Wreath in good standing.

Assembly/Wreath President or Secretary

_____ I have participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments

_____ I have not participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments

_____ Men: I am 62 years or older and wish to enter the Senior Flight and have participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments.

Tournament Start Times: 8:00 AM Saturday & 8:00 AM Sunday

Preferred Doubles Partner: _____

_____ Full Golf Package	Double Occupancy	FAIRFIELD INN	HAMPTON INN
	Package Fee:	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00
	<u>Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:</u>	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 295.00	\$ 295.00

_____ Full Golf Package	Single Occupancy	FAIRFIELD INN	HAMPTON INN
	Package Fee:	\$ 385.00	\$ 385.00
	<u>Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:</u>	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 415.00	\$ 415.00

_____ Golf Only Package	Package Fee:	\$130.00
	<u>Entry Fee/Tournament Expense:</u>	\$ 30.00
	TOTAL DUE:	\$ 160.00

_____ Non-Golf Package	Double Occupancy	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00
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_____ Non-Golf Package	Single Occupancy	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00
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All hotel reservations to be made directly through the Fairfield Inn & Suites, DuBois, PA, 814-371-2260 or Hampton Inn, DuBois, PA 814-375-1000



KIDS' CORNER "Ďetský kútik" - - May 2021

The Birth of Mother's Day

A woman named Anna Jarvis started a campaign for an official holiday honoring **mothers** in 1905, the year her own **mother** died. The first larger-scale celebration of the holiday was in 1908, when Jarvis held a public memorial for her **mother** in her hometown of Grafton, West Virginia.

Mother's Day is an occasion which is celebrated in various parts of the world to express respect, honor, and love towards **mothers**. ... It is a **day** which makes people remember the **importance** and significance of **mothers** in their life and is observed as a **day** to give special emphasis to the motherly figures around the world.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day 2021 will occur on Monday, May 31. Originally known as **Decoration Day**, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe **Memorial Day** by visiting cemeteries or **memorials**, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.

On May 5, 1868, General **John A. Logan** issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide; he was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization of and for Union Civil War veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois.

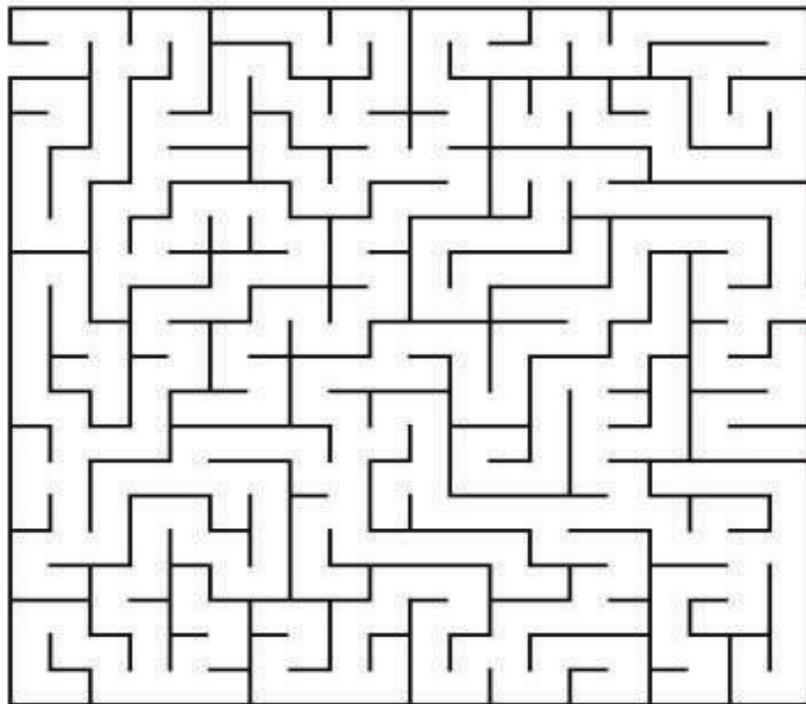


KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - May 2021

Happy Mother's Day!



Help the children get their gifts to Mom!





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - May 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Benjamin Roman 5/3
 Xaviar Yuhas 5/13
 Octavia Dixon 5/20
 Nathan DiMartino 5/20
 Lucia Yuhas 5/21
 Savannah Vollero 5/22
 Vayda Korenoski 5/28



SEND YOUR BIRTHDAY DATES
 TO ME
 vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org



l a z d t u o s t c y m
 a r m e d f o r c e s e
 s l e c r a g e t m i m
 t i h o n o r m v e r o
 m n d r b e a e l t v r
 o g u a r s v m t e k i
 n t e t x l e b i r y a
 d o m e y r s e b i z l
 a n z r b t t r s e n d
 y j e v o f l a g s t a
 v o p a t r i o t i c y
 m c i v i l w a r w o k

- 
 Arlington
Civil War
graves
Memorial Day
- Armed Forces
decorate
honor
patriotic
- cemeteries
flags
Last Monday
remember

©2013 Ballie Borkink

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM DONATIONS JANUARY – MARCH 2021

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations which were received during the period January through March 2021 for our Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum located at our home office in Passaic, NJ.

The monies received from these donations fund our annual \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships which assist our young people in their educational endeavors. The number of scholarship grants the Museum Board gives out, depends upon the amount of donations received.

In Memory of	DONATION RECEIVED Donated by	Amount
Helen Pavlik	Jacqueline Pribila	\$ 25
John Yanosick	John Yanosick Family	100
John Yanosick	Edward and Janice Moeller	40
Living and Deceased Members of Assembly 78	Assembly 78, Bethlehem, PA	200
Joseph Takerer	Group 19, Toronto, Ontario	100
Albert Chodelka	Group 19, Toronto, Ontario	100
Mira Gazo	Group 19, Toronto, Ontario	100
Gus Kapsa	Group 19, Toronto, Ontario	100

Total donations to date in 2021: \$ 765.00

Thank you for your generosity,
James F. Knis, Supreme Treasurer

WHY IS MAY THE MONTH OF MARY?

(Continued from page 2)

proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray.

For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but place there some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue.

Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Just do it.

Why?

Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is.

No, do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters.

For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to Memorial Scholarship fund? Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at <http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorial-frame.htm> or send your donation to: James F. Knis, SCS Museum Treasurer, 6385 Harbor Drive, N.W., Canton, OH 44718.

In Memoriam

MARCH 2021

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 11	Janet E. Edwards, Michigan City, IN	81	January 23, 2021
Assembly 36	Raymond M. Yanok, Novi, MI	90	February 17, 2021
Assembly 48	Frank Vargo, Trooper, PA	90	February 13, 2021
Assembly 59	Nancy J. Fedor, Hudson, PA	71	March 13, 2021
Assembly 57	Eugene Sura, Plymouth, PA	56	March 24, 2021
Assembly 63	Nicholas Benyo, Yonkers, NY	93	December 19, 2020
Assembly 72	Anna Maitiski, Whitehall, PA	84	April 3, 2020
Assembly 78	John L. Tichy, Sarasota, FL	82	November 25, 2020
Assembly 108	Thomas D. Morella, New Middletown, OH	82	January 21, 2021
Assembly 136	George Hasay, Shickshinny, PA	73	February 8, 2021
Assembly 167	Robert Andreyka, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	87	February 26, 2021
Assembly 167	Edward Hanic, Barberton, OH	95	March 1, 2021
Assembly 167	Virginia M. Hanic, Barberton, OH	78	December 16, 2009
Assembly 179	Barbara Palaszynski, Pittsburgh, PA	81	July 12, 2020
Assembly 108	John J. Gordulic, Youngstown, OH	86	December 28, 2020
Assembly 162	Joseph J. Wallace, Saddle Brook, NJ	95	March 17, 2021
Assembly 185	Mary Kucera, Fairport, NY		Unknown
Assembly 188	Anna M. Marek, Summit Hill, PA	90	January 16, 2021
Assembly 188	Desiree L. Chintala-Eastgate, Palmerton, PA	60	March 13, 2021
Assembly 224	Leslie D. Winkie, Bayonne, NJ	61	January 31, 2021
Assembly 255	Andrew S. Kubik, Whitehall, PA	96	March 11, 2021
Assembly 261	Stanley Olanin, Beverly Hills, FL	95	June 22, 2021
Assembly 312	Francis M. Lasko, Hillsborough, NJ	90	March 1, 2021
Wreath 1	Veronica Harrigan, Shelton, CT	94	February 5, 2021
Wreath 15	Christine Ritacco, Pittsburgh, PA	75	February 15, 2021
Wreath 15	Michele Cope, Rostraver Twsp., PA	71	March 10, 2021
Wreath 22	Helen A. Pavlick, Bethel Park, PA	91	January 8, 2021
Wreath 29	Anna Tomczak, Parel, PA	93	February 11, 2021
Wreath 29	Theresa Stetar, Grove City, PA	83	March 11, 2021
Wreath 34	Joseph Hrusovsky, Mentor, OH	89	February 26, 2021
Wreath 34	Kathryn Meckstroth, Wapakoneta, OH	92	March 16, 2021
Wreath 54	William Novotny, Newton Falls, OH	94	March 15, 2021
Wreath 81	Mildred Coil, Whiting, IN	78	February 11, 2021
Wreath 85	John Zurkovski, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	89	November 30, 2017
Wreath 93	Franco Bene Zamora, Waukesha, WI	42	August 29, 2020
Wreath 93	Xai C. Vang, Stevens Point, WI	76	November 8, 2020
Wreath 93	Helene R. Evica, Greenfield, WI	76	January 22, 2021
Wreath 93	Edward P. Brahm, Wauwatosa, WI	86	February 27, 2021

YOUR BENEFICIARIES



When was the last time you looked at your designated beneficiaries on your valuable Sokol insurance policy? How important is it?

Just think about how much your life has changed. Have you married, divorced, had children, maybe you lost a loved one? This is an item you should consider annually. If you do need to make changes to any of your policies, contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656.

2021 LAW DAY MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL COUNSEL

(Continued from page 4)

ultimate and objective judge of justice, versus a person or people who might be subject to arbitrary decisions, nepotism, favoritism, prejudice, bigotry, bribery, or any other wrongdoing. The rule of law protects us from ethnic, religious, class, or other discriminations in the executions of the law; it protects us from vigilantism and mob rule. People can take the law to the court and not into their own hands. The rule of law protects us from violence, force, and tyranny on the part of government officials by limiting political powers, government and state. It protects us from abuse of power and it applies to everyone in the system.

RULE OF LAW: PRINCIPLES

Another way of understanding the rule of law is to examine the concept, values, and principles that support and are supported by it. For example, separation of powers and the resultant checks and balances assure that one person or group of people in the government does not amass ultimate power. That system is a fundamental component to American democracy's reliance on the rule of law and "not of men." Judicial independence and accountability are instrumental to separation of powers and the rule of law it protects. An independent, accountable judiciary guarantees that justice will be executed according to the law and not individual's feelings or biases. In America, the framers ensured that the Constitution could be changed with two-thirds vote of the legislative branch and three-fourths of the states—not at the whim of any single individual. Transparency and public accessibility of laws and the legal process – with a free press as a watchdog – assure we maintain a "govern-

ment of laws and not of men."

ANALYSIS

The centrality of the rule of law in successful societies is experienced, if not acknowledged, in American life every day. Examples of daily practices taken for granted but protected by the rule of law include the free exercise of individual rights – expressing opinions that are unpopular, practicing religions that are not widely understood, and participating in public life at school, in court and in the voting booth.

CONCLUSION

This year's Law Day theme encourages us all to examine the rule of law, our role in its sustainability, and its role in protecting our communities, our democracy, opportunity, equality, and all that is most precious to us. Advancing the rule of law helps achieve an array of public benefits. We all have a stake in the rule of law, and we can all do our part to strengthen it. I encourage you to join with me in working to advance the understanding of the rule of law during this year's Law Day celebration.

ZDAR BOH!

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Pogorelec, Jr., General Counsel

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 43rd year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of April 20, there are 152 donors who have given \$16,384.50 to the 2021 Appeal. Donations have been received from Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 24, Assembly 34, Assembly 48, Assembly 71, Assembly 78, Assembly 162, Assembly 180, Assembly 219, Group 6, Group 12, Wreath 11, Wreath 15, Wreath 81. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2021 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2021 will be credited toward the 2022 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to: Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President Slovak Catholic Federation, 120 Jefferson Street, Swedesburg, PA 19405

SOKOL MEMBERS INTERESTED IN LEARNING SLOVAK THIS SUMMER ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!

SACC SCHOLARSHIP FOR SUMMER STUDY OF SLOVAK LANGUAGE & CULTURE

The Slovak-American Cultural Center offers \$1,000 scholarships toward one of the below programs to study Slovak language and culture this summer!

In order to apply for a scholarship, please complete the steps listed on our SACC website.

WWW.SLOVAKAMERICANCC.ORG

THE APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE:

MAY 1ST, 2021 FOR SLI (Intensive Summer Slovak)

JUNE 15TH, 2021 FOR SAS (Studia Academica Slovaca)

Learn more: Visit the SACC website for scholarship information and information on the two programs offered this summer: SLI (University of Pittsburgh) and the SAS (Studia Academica Slovaca)!

NEMECKO DAROVALO SLOVENSKU 31 PLŮCNYCH VENTILÁTOROV

Nemecko darovalo Slovensku na pomoc v boji s pandémiou nového koronavírusu 31 plúcnych ventilátorov v hodnote zhruba 150 000 eur. Boli odovzdané na využitie do Ústrednej vojenskej nemocnici v Ružomberku.

lúcne ventilácie spolu s príslušenstvom budú slúžiť pacientom s ťažkým priebehom ochorenia COVID-19.

Z celkového počtu 31 ventilátorov je 25 ventilátorov darom od Ministerstva obrany Spolkovej republiky Nemecko a šesť ventilátorov od Ministerstva zdravotníctva Spolkovej republiky Nemecko.

Obom nemeckým ministerstvám poďakoval minister obrany SR Jaroslav Naď.

Tento prejav solidarity je podľa jeho slov dôkazom dlhodobého nadštandardnej bilaterálnej spolupráce Slovenska s Nemeckom v oblasti obrany a bezpečnosti a zároveň tiež vysokej úrovne spoločných vzťahov v NATO a Európskej únii.

“Plúcne ventilátory sú kľúčové pri liečbe najvážnejších prípadov ochorenia COVID-19. Veľmi nás teší, že sme mohli podporiť ďalšie skvalitnenie zdravotnej starostlivosti,” uviedla nemecká veľvyslankyňa na Slovensku Barbara Wolf.

Vyzvala taktiež, aby bolo naďalej udržané spoločné úzke partnerstvo v rámci EÚ a NATO.

Zdravotnícke prístroje boli doručené pre Úrad hlavného lekára Ozbrojených síl SR prostredníctvom nemeckého veľvyslanectva na Slovensku.

PRÍEMERNÁ MZDA V SR MEDZIROČNE STÚPLA VO VÄČŠINE ODVETVÍ

Priemerná nominálna mesačná mzda na Slovensku vo februári tohto roka medziročne vzrástla vo väčšine sledovaných odvetví. Najväčší nárast zaznamenalo stavebníctvo, kde sa priemerná mzda zvýšila o 4,5 % na 747 eur.

Zvýšenie hrubých mesačných zárobkov vykázali aj veľkoobchod, o 3,7 % na 1 076 eur, či informačné a komunikačné činnosti o 2,5 % na 1 945 eur.

Vo vybraných trhových službách sa priemerná hrubá mzda medziročne zvýšila taktiež o 2,5 % na 1 058 eur, v maloobchode o 1,5 % na 801 eur, v priemysle o 1,2 % na 1 136 eur a v doprave a skladovaní o 0,2 % na 1 009 eur. Informoval o tom Štatistický úrad SR.

Naopak, priemerné hrubé zárobky sa vo februári medziročne znížili v ubytovaní o 19,7 % na 648 eur, v činnostiach reštaurácií a pohostinstiev o 5,4 % na 528 eur a v predaji a oprave motorových vozidiel o 4,5 % na 1 013 eur.

V priemere za dva mesiace tohto roka v porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím vlaňajška sa mzda zvýšila vo vybraných trhových službách o 5,9 % na 1 090 eur, v stavebníctve o 4,1 % na 758 eur, v informačných a komunikačných činnostiach o 1,2 % na 1 969 eur, v priemysle o 1,1 % na 1 157 eur.

Stúpila aj vo veľkoobchode, o 0,9 % na 1 064 eur a v maloobchode o 0,6 % na 802 eur. Oproti rovnakému obdobiu minulého roka sa hrubá mzda za dva mesiace znížila v ubytovaní o 19,1 % na 649 eur, v činnostiach reštaurácií a pohostinstiev o 6,6 % na 524 eur, v predaji a oprave motorových vozidiel o 3 % na 1 039 eur a v doprave a skladovaní o 1,6 % na 1 015 eur.

VO FEBRUÁRI ZOMRELO V SR O 59 PERCENT VIAC LUDÍ AKO POČAS PREDOSHÝCH ROKOV

Vo februári tohto roka zomrelo o 59 percent viac ľudí ako počas predošlých rokov. V utorok o tom informoval Štatistický úrad SR s tým, že ide o rekordný počet.

Každý piaty zomretý vo februári mal menej ako 65 rokov.

Celkovo počet zomretých do 64 rokov prevýšil priemer o 43 percent. Najhoršia situácia bola v Trnavskom kraji.

Podľa Štatistického úradu SR ovplyvnila druhá vlna pandémie nového koronavírusu počty zomretých na Slovensku zásadným spôsobom. V súhrne za druhý mesiac roka 2021 zomrelo na Slovensku 7 555 ľudí, čo je o 58,6 percenta viac ako bol priemer druhého mesiaca v predošlých piatich rokoch. Celkovo tak zomrelo vo februári takmer o 2800 osôb viac ako vlani či predvlani.

Dynamika rastu počtu zomretých sa veľmi mierne spomalila, ešte v januári dosahovala nadúmrtnosť 75 percent, v decembri minulého roka to bolo 60 percent.

“Na celoslovenskej úrovni bola februárová nadúmrtnosť nižšia ako v januári, ale len nepatrne. Netreba však robiť predčasné optimistické závery, je potrebné počkať, ako sa bude situácia vyvíjať v ďalších mesiacoch. Celkové počty zomretých v porovnaní s predošlými rokmi sú základnými vstupmi na analýzy o vplyve COVID-19 na spoločnosť, neskôr sa doplnia ešte o štruktúry o príčinách úmrtí,” spresnila Zuzana Podmanická, riaditeľka odboru štatistiky obyvateľstva Štatistického úradu SR.

Podľa Štatistického úradu SR bola aj vo februári najhoršia situácia v kategórii mladších seniorov vo veku 65 až 74 rokov.

Nárast zomretých v tejto vekovej skupine sa síce spomalil, ale oproti päťročnému priemeru zomrelo takmer dvojnásobne viac ľudí ako predošlé roky, a to o 92 percent viac.

Dáta o počtoch úmrtí v januári podľa úradu potvrdili, že nadúmrtnosť začala rásť aj vo vekovej skupine do 64 rokov.

Aj vo februári mal každý piaty zomretý menej ako 65 rokov. Celkovo vo februári zomrelo v tejto vekovej kategórii 1 625 osôb, v predošlých rokoch to bývalo 1100 až 1 200 osôb.

“Zatiaľ čo v iných vekových kategóriách nadúmrtnosť vo februári klesla, v skupine ľudí do 65 rokov sa udržala na januárovej výške,” doplnila Podmanická.

Z hľadiska krajov bola situácia najhoršia v Trnavskom kraji, kde zomieralo tento rok vo februári o vyše 90 percent viac ľudí ako v predošlých rokoch.

Nasledoval Nitriansky kraj, v ktorom zaznamenali nárast o 86,4 percenta zomretých. Za ním nasledoval Košický kraj s rastom o 78 percent zomretých.

Banskobystrický a Bratislavský kraj mali prírastok počtu zomretých okolo hranice 50 percent. Najnižší rast počtu zomretých dosiahol v januári Žilinský kraj, kde počet zomretých prevýšil predošlé roky o 15 percent. – *sme.sk*

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